



GOVERNOR'S STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

State of Montana

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

Issue 16

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Sept-Oct '06

"Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights."

~ Pauline R. Kezer

WEB Update

The SWIB website has recently converted to the "common look and feel" per the Governor's policy.

Navigation is now on the left side of the screen. Historical meeting agendas and minutes are listed under the "Archived Meetings" heading, sorted by year.

Most links have converted, but some had errors. I am working to re-establish those links.

The web has a new, easier-to-remember web address www.swib.mt.gov

Explore our website and bookmark us! 🍁

Change is a constant in our lives, but growth is a choice. The SWIB has experienced many changes, and has reached new heights.

Outlined below are some of the changes you can look forward to in the newsletter. I hope you enjoy them!

Bi-Monthly Publication
With transition complete, a monthly publication is no longer needed.

Expanded Content
In order to offer more meatier content, the newsletter has been expanded.

Message from the Chair
Chairman Miles will be contributing messages.

Director's Note

Leisa Smith will contribute content to each publication.

One-Stop Corner

I am excited to feature newly certified One-Stops and showcase one-stop activities.

Nifty Nuggets

Nifty Nuggets are interesting facts, figures, quotes, and articles.

While working on the newsletter, the theme of **change** kept surfacing. Read on to learn about other changes taking place and remind yourself how far we've come!

~ Chris 🍁



Labor Day Report

The 2006 Labor Day Report was presented August 31, 2006 for the Governor in his reception room. Lt. Governor Bohlinger and SWIB members were some of the honored guests.

The report outlines the state of Montana's economy and Montana's workforce.

An exciting change: This is the first year Native American statistics have

been included in the report.

The full report and a summary are available at <http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.mt.gov/> 🍁

Inside this issue:

Message from the Chair	2
Director's Note	2
2006 Desiree Taggart Memorial Awards	3
One-Stop Corner	4
Certified One-Stops	4
SWIB Staff Changes	5
Nifty Nuggets	5

Upcoming Events:

October 10–12
Technical Assistance and Training
Bozeman, MT

October 20
Youth Council
Billings, MT

October 27
Workforce System Committee
Helena, MT

October 31
Halloween

November 7
Election Day

November 10
Veteran's Day (Observed)

November 23
Thanksgiving



I value your **input** as I work to continually improve the newsletter.
Chris

Message from the Chair

by Dan Miles



Last month as I and my fellow Board members were gathered for the Governor's annual Labor Day Report I was reminded of how much has been accomplished since the new State Board was appointed by Governor Schweitzer almost a year ago. The Board has kept the Governor's charge in mind as it worked toward its accomplishments:

1. Ensure Accountability;
2. Improve Efficiencies by getting more dollars to Montana's needing citizens;
3. Promote Local Involvement; and
4. Include Montana's First Americans and Montana's Last and the Least.

Below I've listed some of the

more significant Board accomplishments of which I am proud to have been a part.

- Transition to a Single State-wide Planning Area
- Consolidation to a Single Administrative Entity
- Over 1.2 million dollars savings with most being reallocated back to service providers for those most in need
- Statewide MOU for One-Stop Delivery System signed by all WIA mandatory partners
- Certification of 6 one-stops with additional plans under review
- Formation of a Youth Council and Healthcare Task Force
- Apprenticeship Program Development Process MOU outlining coordinated development of new programs involving business, labor, education, and state government.
- \$15 Million WIRED Grant
- Submitted waiver request for \$400,000 incumbent worker funds from WIA reallocated monies.
- Snapshot document outlining State of Montana Workforce System being finalized.
- SWIB Web converted and SWIB staff training to maintain web.
- Newsletter reinstated, transitioning to a bi-monthly, expanded publication to better communicate SWIB business.
- Transition to new staff and SWIB Director.

Each and every Board member and everyone associated with Montana's Workforce Training System should be proud of these accomplishments as well. I thank you for your dedication and hard work. It is a demonstration of the commitment you all have to your communities, the great state of Montana, and its citizens. I look forward to our future challenges knowing that by working together a difference can be made. 🍂

Director's Note



The changing of the seasons is upon us. Everywhere you look is transformation! As the new Director to the State Workforce Investment Board, I am excited to be a part of Montana's economic and workforce development. Chairman Miles, along with

SWIB staff, embrace a "continuous improvement" philosophy. We look forward to our "evolution" as we work to assist you as SWIB board, committee, taskforce, and council members. We will strive to reach out for more relationships with our interested parties and stakeholders, our youth and our aging citizens, the employed, unemployed, business and industry. I am honored to walk the path with you as we face the challenges be-

fore us. We are pleased with the many accomplishments and goals thus far achieved and look forward to a future of continued success.

Best regards,

Leisa Smith 🍂



State Workforce Investment Board Members

Dan Miles, Chair

Marty Copps, Vice Chair

Evan Barrett
John Beaudry
Arlene Becker
Dave Crum
Thomas Curry
Michael DesRosier
Georgia Gibbs-Atkinson
Michael Grove
Kirk Hammerquist
Jacquie Helt
Llew Jones
Julie Jordan
Keith Kelly
Maureen Kenneally
Lane Larson
Robbe Lindsay
Thomas McKenna
Jody Messinger
Joan Miles
Rodney Miller
Michael O'Neill
Arlene Parisot
Gary Perry
Tony Preite
John Prinkki
Gail Richardson
Jeff Rupp
Alan Skari
Karen Sullivan
Teresa Wall-McDonald
Linda Woods

Staff

Leisa Smith, Director
Chris Wilhelm, Program Spec.
Mary Eve Pietrukowicz, Administrative Assistant

2006 Desiree Taggart Memorial Awards

By Chris Wilhelm and Michelle Robinson

The Governor's appointed State Workforce Investment Board proudly announced the following award recipients for the Governor's Desiree Taggart Memorial Award for Workforce Development:



Opportunities, Inc. of Great Falls was recognized as the **Outstanding Business of the Year**, for empowering low-income families to obtain self-sufficiency; for offering staff continuing education and training, allowing for increased marketability and self-reliance. According to the self-nomination, a third of Opportunities, Inc. employees have previously been clients in parent volunteer programs.

Yvonneda (Henry) Thompson of Chief Dull Knife College Extension Services in Lama Deer received the award for **Individual Workforce Development Achievement** for her dedication to the Northern Cheyenne community. "Chief Dull Knife College Extension Services' key to success has been building a network of invested individuals working together to grow a healthier way of living, respectful of Native culture, for the betterment of Indian people," said Thompson upon award. Thompson was nominated by former reservation resident and current DLI Communications Director, Michelle Robinson.



Youth and Family Services of St. Labre Indian School in Ashland received the award for **Quality Program** for developing and implementing, in partnership, activities to improve the chances of employment and their commitment to helping clients achieve self-sufficiency. Youth and Family Services were unable to attend the awards ceremony, however, Shirley Skinner of the **Career Development Workforce Center**, who nominated the program, will present an award to Director Vicki DeTavanier on September 15.

"Award recipients are commended for their admirable and sincere commitment to the people and communities they serve," said State Workforce Investment Board Chairman Dan Miles. 🍷

Seeking Nominations

The State Workforce Investment Board is currently soliciting 2007 nominations. Montana workforce development organizations, businesses and individuals are eligible for the awards based on outstanding achievement or contributions to employment and training efforts in Montana, including: improved productivity, creativity, economy and efficiency in Montana's workforce system.

Award nominations are due to the State Workforce Investment Board by May 31, 2007, and should be mailed to PO Box 1728, Helena, MT 59624. For more information, visit the State Workforce Investment Board's website of: www.swib.mt.gov (Resources tab), or contact Chris Wilhelm at (406)444-4480. 🍷



One Corner

Missoula / Mineral One-Stop Workforce Center

The Missoula/Mineral One-Stop Workforce Center, located at the Missoula Job Service Workforce Center, has a commitment to serve all of Missoula and Mineral counties. The local communities and service provider organizations have worked diligently to develop and strengthen their already-existing cooperative local workforce system. Missoula's human services community has a long history of having formed close professional relationships and maintains these collaborative ties in order to maximize local resources and make system navigation as easy as possible for our customers. We have established formal and many informal links between a multitude of organizations that offer a wide variety of services. Establishing a certified local One-Stop system was the only logical outcome of the many years during which we have gradually built mutual respect and goodwill among all partners, often resulting in innovative solutions to local human needs.



It is our goal to build on the close relationships in our community by further enhancing collaboration, increasing staff training efforts, and enhancing relationships and collocation opportunities within the Center to build additional bridges to the business community and thereby support workforce and economic development.

Contact the **Missoula / Mineral Area Workforce System** at:
Missoula Job Service Workforce Center
539 South 3rd Street West
Missoula, MT 59806
406-728-7060

Flathead One-Stop Workforce System



Team.

Welcome to the Flathead One-Stop Workforce System. A consortium of partners, the Flathead Workforce System Community Management Team, provides an integrated service delivery system for education, employment and training, business support, and economic development resources and services to the citizens of Flathead County. The Flathead operates a Tier System formed in 3 layers. Tier One is comprised of member agencies and organizations that provide training, economic development, and contiguous services to service area customers. Tier Two is comprised of WIA mandated partners and other agencies interested in participating with an increased level of responsibility toward the operation of the Flathead One-Stop Workforce System. Tier Three is comprised of primary partners established as a One-Stop Operations

The partners illustrate the broad array of needs served in our county. We are particularly proud of the participation of our business community representatives in the form of the *Flathead Regional Business Center*. Located within easy walking distance of the One-Stop Center, the FRBC provides a one-stop environment for businesses from start-up through expansion and retention. The Flathead Workforce System also recently implemented a Soft Skills curriculum in response to employer requests to provide their staff with basic workplace skills. This has resulted in a six-workshop series called "Movin' on Up, Your Key to Workplace Success", spearheaded by partner staff from Career Connections, Flathead Valley Community College and Northwest Montana Human Resources. After a very successful pilot series this summer the workshops began again in September and are available to any local employer or individual for a nominal fee.

Contact the **Flathead One-Stop Workforce Center** at:
427 First Avenue East
Kalispell MT 59903-1879
406-758-6200 📞

Currently Certified One-Stops

- Capital Area Workforce System
- Flathead One-Stop Workforce System
- Missoula Mineral Area Workforce System
- Missouri River Workforce System
- South Central Workforce System
- Southwest Montana Workforce System

Business Plans Under Staff Review

- Eastern Plains Workforce System
- Mission Valley One-Stop Workforce System
- Southeastern Montana Workforce System



SWIB Staff Changes



SWIB staff introduces
Mary Eve Pietrukowicz.

Mary Eve has accepted a one-year temporary position as the Administrative Assistant for the SWIB.

Mary Eve has extensive experience working with underserved individuals in a non-medical capacity through the Department of Public Health and Human Services in Montana as well as Oregon.

In her spare time, Mary Eve enjoys creating stained glass works of art, and spending time with her many pets.

Mary Eve's creative flair and compassionate spirit make her a wonderful addition to our staff. Please join Leisa and Chris in welcoming her. 🐾

SWIB gives Pam Watson a fond farewell as she transitions into her new position.

At the August 31, 2006 SWIB meeting, Pam Watson was presented a plaque, a bouquet of roses, and a baseball hat from her favorite collegiate team—Notre Dame. As Pam moves into her new position as WIA Unit Supervisor in the Workforce Services Division, the SWIB would like to express its sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation for her outstanding leadership, commitment, and dedication. Pam, you have the SWIB's gratitude and respect.



A Heartfelt "THANK YOU"

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the SWIB for the send off I received during the August 31st meeting. I was both surprised and touched by the gifts, and will proudly hang the plaque in my office throughout my career (and that's a LONG time)! It was my honor to work with each of

you, and be a small part of your amazing accomplishments. The dedication of your time and efforts to Montana's citizens is commendable, and I hope each of you know that you truly are making a difference in the quality of life for your neighbors. As I look forward to new challenges, I know that I leave the SWIB with a very excellent and capable staff: My hat (Notre Dame or otherwise) is off to Leisa, Chris and Mary Eve! See you all at the next SWIB meeting, and again...THANK YOU so much! 🐾

Nifty Nuggets

Nine percent of Montanans hold multiple jobs, compared to: ID (8.5%), ND (10.1%), SD (9.2%), WA (5.9%), and WY (9.0%). ~ DLI R&A

Flathead County is Montana's third most populous with 81,217 residents. Kalispell is the largest city with a population of 16,391. ~ DLI R&A

90% of the fastest-growing jobs require education and training past high school. ~ USDOL ETA

By 2030, at least 25% of Montana's residents will be age 65 or older. ~ DLI R&A

The workforce system has changed from an industrial economy to a knowledge economy. ~ USDOL ETA

Montanans' wages have outpaced inflation since 2003. ~ DLI R&A

63% of all new jobs in the next decade will require a college

degree; only 30% of the population has a college degree. ~ USDOL ETA

Missoula County is Montana's second most populous with 99,018 residents. Missoula is the state's second largest city with a population of 60,722. ~ DLI R&A

Through the stages of evolution, the workforce system has changed from a social service to an economic development model. ~ USDOL ETA 🐾

Youth Council Members

John Beaudry, Chair *
Natalie Barnes
Marcy Buster
Curt Campbell
Dan Dolan
Sara Fox
Jake Gustin
Teschaw Hawley
Jim McDonald
Warren Means
Jody Messinger *
Mike Nephew
Jim Patelis

Healthcare Task Force

Karen Sullivan, Chair *
Lisa Addington
Beverly Barnhart
Mike Downing
Keith Kelly *
Deb Matteucci
Scot Mitchell
LeeAnna Muzquiz
Wendy Palmer
Cindy Stergar
Pat Wise

* Denotes SWIB Member

For a complete listing of committees and their members, please see the SWIB website at www.swib.mt.gov

change v. 1 to make different [vary, turn, alternate] **2** to become different [alter, vary, modify, evolve, be converted, turn into, resolve into, grow, ripen, mellow, mature, transform, reform, moderate, adapt, adjust]



Montana
Department of Labor and Industry

State Workforce Investment Board
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